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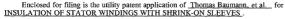
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Box PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:



- [] Applicant(s) hereby request(s) that the above-captioned application NOT BE PUBLISHED under 35 U.S.C. § 122(b) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.211. The undersigned hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing.
- [] Applicant(s) suggest(s) Figure _ for inclusion on the front page of the patent application publication and patent.

Also enclosed are:

- [x] _3 _ sheet(s) of [x] formal [] informal drawing(s);
- [x] a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and/or 365 is [x] hereby made to Appln. No. 100 23 204.3 filed in Germany on 12 May 2000;
 - [x] in the declaration;
- [] a certified copy of the priority document:
- [] a General Authorization for Petitions for Extensions of Time and Payment of Fees;
- [] an Assignment document:
- [] an Information Disclosure Statement:
- [x] a patent application bibliographic data sheet; and
- [x] Other: Preliminary Amendment
- [x] An [] executed [x] unexecuted declaration of the inventor(s)
 - [x] also is enclosed [] will follow.
- [x] Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence --This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and/or 365 to <u>Appln. No. 100 23 204.3</u> filed in <u>Germany</u> on <u>12 May 2000</u>; the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference.--



- [] Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:
- --This application is a continuation of International Application No. _ filed on _, which International Application [] was [] was not published by the International Bureau in English on _,--.
- [] Small entity status is hereby claimed.
- [x] The filing fee has been calculated as follows [x] and in accordance with the enclosed preliminary amendment:

In the last of the	No. OF CLAIMS		EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	FEE
Basic Application Fee					\$710.00 (101
Total Claims	17	MINUS 20 =		× \$18.00 (103) =	
Independent Claims	2	MINUS 3 =		× \$80.00 (102) =	
If multiple dependent cla	ims are prese	nted, add \$270.00	(104)		
Total Application Fee					\$ 710.00
If small entity status is cl	aimed, subtra	act 50% of Total Ap	plication Fee		
Add Assignment Recordi	ng Fee \$ if A	ssignment documer	nt is enclosed		

- [x] A check in the amount of \$ 710.00 is enclosed for the fee due.
- [] Charge \$ _____ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due.
- [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Please address all correspondence concerning the present application to:

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Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: May 11, 2001

By:

Robert S. Swecker Registration No. 19,885

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